

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Post Employment Cash Benefits for DVR Consumers

1. Who is eligible for the special \$125 post employment payments?

Only individuals who earn enough to go off of cash payments from Social Security and whose rehabilitation costs to DVR are less than \$10,000 are eligible for this special incentive. If you work part time and under certain dollar levels, your benefits from Social Security will continue as they have in the past.

2. Why will I become eligible for monthly cash payments of \$125 for up to 5 years if I go off Social Security cash benefits because of my work earnings?

It is actually not you, but the organization, which holds your Ticket which will become eligible for monthly payments from the Social Security Administration if you leave the disability rolls because of your work earnings. If your total rehabilitation costs to DVR remain below \$10,000 DVR is willing to share with you a portion of the Ticket payments received from Social Security. Our goal is to provide you with supplemental cash that you can use to buy goods or services that will help you succeed in staying employed and off Social Security cash benefits.

3. Why do I need to assign, or reassign, my Ticket to AAATakeCharge to receive those monthly payments?

As a State Vocational Rehabilitation agency, DVR is not legally allowed to give consumers cash payments after your rehabilitation program has concluded. As a private Employment Network, AAATakeCharge can share payments. DVR has therefore joined with AAATakeCharge in an innovative agreement that enables DVR to give you pre-employment assistance and AAATakeCharge to give you post-employment cash payments.

4. When should I complete the AAATakeCharge application and submit it?

It depends on whether you fall into category A, B, C or D below.

- A. If you have started work or expect to do so, and you expect to earn enough that your monthly checks from Social Security will stop, we recommend that you request an AAATakeCharge application from DVR and submit it immediately. Call (800) 442-3477 to request an application.
- B. If you think it unlikely that you will earn enough that Social Security will stop your cash checks, do not request an AAATakeCharge application. As long as your Ticket is assigned to DVR, you will have time to reassign it to AAATakeCharge should your situation change.
- C. If your work earnings have already resulted in the termination of your monthly checks from Social Security you can still re-assign your Ticket to AAATakeCharge provided that your Ticket is currently assigned to DVR. You should complete the AAATakeCharge application immediately to become eligible for Ticket payments.
- D. If your work earnings have already resulted in the termination of your monthly checks from Social Security and your Ticket was not assigned to DVR, then you are no longer Ticket eligible and AAATakeCharge cannot accept your Ticket. However, we recommend that you request the AAATakeCharge application. If you have a break in your employment, or

if your earnings fall below the Substantial Gainful Activity level for even one calendar month, then Social Security will categorize you as "Ticket eligible" for that calendar month. Even if you go back to work full-time the very next month, you will now be eligible for up to 60 months of post-employment cash payments from AAATakeCharge. (For a more detailed explanation of this option see answer to question #7 below.)

5. Once my Ticket is assigned to AAATakeCharge, what do I need to do to collect my monthly cash payments?

Send AAATakeCharge a copy of your pay stubs each month once you are working and have left the Social Security disability rolls. If you submit pay stubs monthly, AAATakeCharge can pay you \$125 monthly. If you decide to mail in pay stubs every 3 months, AAATakeCharge can pay you 3 months worth of AAATakeCharge payments, or \$375 every 3 months.

6. How will my payments from AAATakeCharge be affected if I go on and off Social Security cash benefits over time?

During those months when you earn below Substantial Gainful Activity and Social Security gives you a disability check, you will not receive payments from AAATakeCharge. If you go back to work and your checks from Social Security stop again because of your earnings, you can submit your pay stubs and again receive AAATakeCharge payments. It does not matter if this happens to you repeatedly. The only thing that you cannot do is receive both a Ticket payment check from AAATakeCharge and a Social Security check for the same calendar month.

7. My cash checks from Social Security have already stopped because of my work earnings and my Ticket is not in use. Under what conditions could I still become eligible to collect payments from AAATakeCharge?

If no other Employment Network collected on your Ticket, you are eligible to assign your Ticket in months in which you are not working above Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) which is \$800 per month for individuals receiving SSDI. SGA for individuals who are blind and receiving SSDI is \$1,330. It may be different if your benefit is SSI. If you earn below SGA for even one calendar month, your cash check from Social Security may resume for that calendar month providing that the drop occurs during your period of extended eligibility. The period of extended eligibility is the 36 months following the date at which you first left the disability rolls.

If you do experience a drop in earnings below Substantial Gainful Activity, inform Social Security immediately so that they can provide you with a cash check for that month. Also submit your AAATakeCharge application immediately. Indicate to AAATakeCharge that rush processing is required. Providing your Ticket is assigned to AAATakeCharge before you resume full time work, you have now become eligible for AAATakeCharge payments for up to 5 years.

8. Is the \$125 considered taxable or reportable to other entities?

No. Under IRS publication 525, you do not include in income the value of goods, services, and cash that you receive, not in return for your services, but for your training and rehabilitation because you have a disability". That is why you must have a plan with AAATakeCharge that promises you will spend the money on items that will help you remain in the workforce.

Talk to your DVR counselor or call 800-442-3477 if you have questions about your situation.

DWD is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. If you have a disability and need to access this information in an alternate format, or need it translated to another language, please contact 800-442-3477 or 888-877-5939 (TTY).